California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)

Minutes

July 22, 2022

Virtual Webinar Sacramento, California 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

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1. Call to Order – Chair Tiffany Meyer, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Roll was called

Committee Members: 7 of 8 voting members were present

Present

- ✓ Department of Water Resources (Mary Simmerer)
- ✓ Department of Parks and Recreation (**Daniel Walsh**)
- ✓ Department of Fish and Wildlife (Richard Lis)
- ✓ Department of Conservation (Amy Loseth)
- ✓ Native American Heritage Commission (Raymond Hitchcock)
- ✓ California State Library (Rebecca Wendt / Jamie Romas for Greg Lucas)
- ✓ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Tiffany Meyer)

Absent

California African American Museum (Susan Anderson)

Ex-Officio Members:

Present

- ✓ Department of Transportation (Amar Azucena Cid)
- ✓ Legislative LGBTQ Caucus (Jacob Fraker for Sen. Susan Eggman)
- ✓ Legislative Black Caucus (**Natalia Garcia** for Asm. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.)
- ✓ Tribal Affairs Secretary (Christina Snider)

Absent

- Latino Legislative Caucus (Asm. Luz Rivas); Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (Asm. Ash Kalra); Select Committee on Native American Affairs (Asm. James C. Ramos)
- Legislative Women's Caucus (TBD); California Natural Resources Agency (Geneva E. B. Thompson, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs)

Federal Advisors:

Present

- ✓ United States Geological Survey (Carol Ostergren)
- ✓ United States Forest Service (Rich Spradling)

Absent

 United States Bureau of Land Management (James Barnes); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jeffrey Ferguson); National Park Service (Amanda B. Kaplan)

Emeritus Advisors:

Present

- ✓ **Jim Trumbly**, former Chair, retired, State Parks
- ✓ Will Patterson, past member, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Absent

• Clayton Guiraud, past member, Department of Water Resources

Non-committee guests:

Jenny Runyon (US Geological Survey and US Board on Geographic Names [US BGN]);

Fred Williams, ACLU California Action; Heather Witzens (recording minutes)

2. Approve Minutes for December 8th, 2021 Meeting

• Minutes were distributed and approved electronically following the previous meeting.

3. Introductions / Announcements / Business

 Roster was circulated electronically with agenda. Members were asked to confirm their information is correct.

a) Federal Legislation: Update on DOI Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405

- Jenny Runyon provided a summary and updates on the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405.
- SO 3404 was issued by Secretary Deb Haaland last November to rename all "Sq___ names" of natural geographic features nationwide on all lands, including private lands (approximately 650 features nationwide, approximately 90 of which are in California). It does not include man-made features such as buildings.
- The SO resulted in a task force consisting of federal employees to review possible replacement names for each of the Sq_ names. The potential replacement names were

initially generated by referencing the names of the five named geographic features in closest proximity to the Sq feature. A 90-day public comment period was initiated through a Federal Register notice to allow the public to comment on the five potential names and/or to suggest alternative names. There was additionally a 90-day tribal comment period, with three tribal listening sessions, invitations for which were sent to all federally recognized tribes. Approximately 6,600 comments were received from the public and from tribes, including many counterproposals. The task force then had 60 days to review all the input and recommend a single replacement name for each Sq___ feature; the resulting list of 646 recommended names has just been submitted to the US BGN for final approval. The US BGN will vote on these replacement names within 60 days (by Sept. 19).

- An additional seven unincorporated populated places/communities will go through the traditional, more extensive BGN Review List process, which includes case briefs, notification to all federally recognized tribes, and outreach to local communities and county governments. Secretary Haaland has asked for a final decision on these seven communities within 6 months. Two of these communities are in California: Sq__ Valley in Fresno County, and Sq__ Hill in Tehama County; CACGN will need to finalize their recommendations for these two communities at their next meeting (November) to help BGN meet their January 2023 deadline.
- SO 3405 addresses "all other derogatory names" nationwide, which is more ambiguous.
 A non-federal Advisory Committee is being formed to develop and implement the review
 process within a five-year timeline. The committee will likely involve the state name
 authorities (such as CACGN) in the process.

b) State Legislation: Update on AB2022

- The chair provided a summary of Assembly Bill 2022, which seeks to change all remaining Sq__-named geographic features on public land in California; the definition of geographic feature is more broad in this state legislation than in the SO 3404 federal legislation.
- Chair opened the floor to Assemblymember Ramos and staff, but they were not present.
 Guest Fred Williams, representative of ACLU California Action, was then invited to provided updates on the bill, which is still under review and subject to change.
 - The bill has passed through most of the policy committees and is now being reviewed by the financial committee and appropriations.
 - The first goal of the bill is to immediately address all remaining Sq__-named geographic features (estimated to be less than 20) in California that were not already covered by the federal legislation. The second goal is for CACGN to develop a formal and streamlined process to review all Sq__names immediately, and review

- other derogatory and/or offensive names on a case-by-case basis as they are submitted.
- By July 1, 2023, CACGN must develop procedures for:
 - Receiving and reviewing reports from public agencies regarding all existing Sq__ names (all public agencies will be required to file reports by July 1 regarding the Sq_ names within their jurisdictions).
 - Receiving and reviewing petitions from public agencies to change other offensive names.
- By January 1, 2024, CACGN will verify the accuracy and completeness of the Sq_ reports from the public agencies, and notify local agencies and organizations that they need to submit replacement names, based on consultation with local Native American tribes, within 180 days.
 - If the name proposed by the public agency is approved by CACGN, CACGN will notify the appropriate state and federal agencies.
 - If a name is rejected, CACGN will conduct their own outreach to local Native American tribes to find a suitable name.
- By 2025, CACGN must report annually to the state legislature regarding how many names are being changed, whether there is a continued need for additional name changes, and whether any procedural changes are needed.
- Jenny Runyon offered feedback on AB2022.
 - US BGN debating how to handle any Sq__ names that surface during the AB2022 process that were missed in original SO3404 process – up to CACGN whether they handle or US BGN handles.
 - Federal policy on derogatory and offensive names refers to names considered derogatory or offensive to a particular race, gender, religion, or ethnic group – a very broad definition.
 - Federal SOs only address derogatory names, not offensive ones
 - Offensive includes people (commemorative names)
 - AB might want to consider their definitions of derogatory and/or offensive and which the bill will cover
 - US BGN made a request to Mr. Williams to present to the 3405 committee to share hidden Sq names they find.
- CAL TRANS is looking for a process and support for changing derogatory roadway names, statues, historical signage. Recognize that these types of features are not within the CACGN scope.

4. Actions made by U.S. BGN since March 25, 2022

Chair announced the decisions made by the US BGN based on CACGN recommendations.

 Source: <u>DNC Review Lists by U.S. Board on Geographic Names</u> > Action List; 2022.06.09 Accessed 2022.06.13)

a) Proposed Name: Paac Küvühü'k

Feature Type: Reservoir

• County: Riverside County

Review List: 437BGN Decision Date: n/a

Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process

b) Proposed Name: Sawyier Falls

• Feature Type: Fall

• County: El Dorado County

Review List: 440
BGN Decision Date: 4/14/2022
Case Status: Approved

c) Proposed Name: Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah

• Feature Type: Stream

• County: Alpine County

Review List: 440
BGN Decision Date: 4/14/2022
Case Status: Approved

d) Proposed Name: Granite Face Lake

Feature Type: ReservoirCounty: Nevada County

Review List: 443
BGN Decision Date: 4/14/2022
Case Status: Approved

e) Proposed Name: Chesed Hills

• Feature Type: Ridge

• County: Imperial County

Review List: 443
BGN Decision Date: 4/14/2022
Case Status: Not approved

f) Proposed Name: Washeshu Peak

• Feature Type: Summit

County: Placer County

A45

Review List: 445BGN Decision Date: n/a

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process

g) Proposed Name: Nuum / Yokuts Valley

Feature Type: Populated PlaceCounty: Fresno County

Review List: 446 / 448

BGN Decision Date: n/a

Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process

h) Proposed Name: Olympic Valley

Feature Type: Valley

• County: Placer County

Review List: 446BGN Decision Date: n/a

Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process

i) Proposed Name: Washeshu Creek

Feature Type: Stream

County: Placer County

Review List: 446BGN Decision Date: n/a

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process

----- Morning Break was taken 10:58 – 11:08 -----

5. Name Proposals on Pending Review Lists for Consideration

• Following committee discussion of each proposed name, public comments were accepted for up to three minutes each.

a) Proposed Name: Johnson Canyon

Current Name: Negro Canyon

Feature Type: Valley

County: Nevada County

Review List: 434

Assigned Member: Susan Anderson

• Case Status: Voted: For 7 / against 0 / abstain 0

Recommendation: Approve

Recommendation basis: Current name is derogatory; proposed name commemorates a deserving member of community and already has some local usage. Proposed name supported by Truckee Town Council, county Board of Supervisors, and US Forest Service. No objections from local Washoe tribe.

Notes: Assigned member not present but sent write-up; Meyer summarized.

Member recommends approval. Name commemorates Albert Johnson; facts about him were detailed. Worked as steamboat cook in Lake Tahoe, then hotel porter in Truckee. Went into business for self, became expert trout fishing guide and established "Albert Johnson's Resort" (cabin rentals). Obituary states Johnson was the most well-known resident of the area at the time "on account of his generosity and hospitality."

Forest Service conducted research on local usage of names and supports the name change to Johnson Canyon. Note: Creek flowing into canyon is unofficially named Gregory Creek, not recorded by Forest Service. Large freeway at bottom of canyon truncates a dual-headed canyon area above. Adoption of "Johnson Canyon" for the entire area (encompassing both streams) based on local usage was the preliminary recommendation from local FS (Tahoe NF). Canyon actually has two "heads." Riparian feature, not glacial, so Forest Service prefers Johnson Canyon name to refer to entire canyon (including both heads). Technically, canyon is defined as single drainage, so would be breaking this rule. Feels Johnson Canyon name more appropriate for eastern fork; local usage stronger here.

BGN stated linear feature can only apply to one source/head. Existing name is applied to area of western creek. Canyons are geographic, not hydrographic. Could extend top of canyon northwest-ward to latitude where eastern creek starts, but currently can only change name of existing feature. Could also propose West Fork Johnson Canyon and East Fork Johnson Canyon, which would require new proposal.

Since a change of name application was not proposed, currently only the proposed name change of the subject feature can be considered by CACGN. Another proposal will need to be submitted for a name application change. Note: An alternate proposal could be to name a West Fork Johnson Canyon and an East Fork Johnson Canyon.

Chair suggested approval of west fork today.

Public Comment from Darrell Cruz, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Washoe Tribe: Feature falls within the aboriginal lands of the Washoe Tribe; the tribe has no objections to the proposed name.

b) Proposed Name: James Wong Howe Creek

• Current Name: Chinaman Creek

• Feature Type: Stream

• County: Tuolumne County

Review List: 440

Assigned Member: Tiffany MeyerCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: There is another proposal for the same feature (see China Creek, item *5f*, below), and a third proposal is expected.

Notes: Proposed name would commemorate a cinematographer out of LA; no local connection to Tuolumne County area.

*This is the first of two proposals for the same feature; the second proposal is item 5f, below.

c) Proposed Name: Elk Creek

Current Name: n/a
 Feature Type: Stream

• County: Marin County

• Review List: 440

Assigned Member: Richard LisCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Current proposal has been withdrawn; new proposal is being submitted.

Notes: Proponent (National Park Service) consulted with the Graton Rancheria tribe, who suggested "mee muku creek" (all lowercase is preferred by tribe and is acceptable to US BGN). Proponent withdrew Elk Creek name from consideration and a new proposal is being submitted.

d) Proposed Name: Menifee Hills

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Ridge

County: Riverside County

• Review List: 440

Assigned Member: Amy LosethCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional tribal outreach needed.

Notes: Ridge is currently unnamed. Major geographic feature of city. Initial federal notice to federally recognized tribes received no response. Member will reach out to several local tribes suggested by Native American Heritage Commission member, giving them a deadline of mid-November (next CACGN meeting) to submit counter-proposals if desired.

----- Lunch Break was taken 12:20 – 1:20 -----

e) Proposed Name: Risler Buttes

• Current Name: Pickaninny Buttes

• Feature Type: Summit

County: San Bernardino County
 Review List: 442 (relisted from 437)

Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional tribal outreach needed.

Notes: Proposal submitted for the purpose of replacing a derogatory name. Proponent Chuck Bell, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association. Regarding African American presence in Lucerne Valley, very little information is available. 1914 newspaper (on National Parks website) stated 20K acres were homesteaded by African Americans in Lucerne Valley; however, extensively researched book from 1919 about Black settlers in CA does not mention Black settlements in Lucerne Valley. The author of this book received very little information from Southern California regions in response to her inquiries.

The Risler family were the original homesteaders of the property and continue to own it today. Proponent considers proposed name to be commemorative of his grandparents. Member states name could also apply to other esteemed Rislers in the area. Local government supports proposed name. Member will reach out to the local tribes suggested by Native American Heritage Commission member.

f) Proposed Name: China Creek*

• Current Name: Chinaman Creek

Feature Type: Stream

County: Tuolumne County

• Review List: 443

Assigned Member: Tiffany MeyerCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional research and outreach needed.

Notes: Proposed name not ideal for this feature, but do want to honor Chinese historical contribution to the area. Forest Service assisting with research/outreach. Counter-proposal expected.

*This is the second of two proposals for the same feature; the first proposal is item 5b, above.

g) Proposed Name: Lake Marie

Current Name: n/a, part of Loch Leven Lakes complex

• Feature Type: Lake

County: Placer County

• Review List: 445

Assigned Member: Mary Simmerer

Case Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Official Forest Service opinion is still pending.

Notes: Lake currently unnamed feature in named group. Minimal common usage of Middle Lake exists on blogs. Forest Service has some references to second lake as Middle Loch

Leven Lake. Name commemorates the late Marie Barry, who was a prominent and influential community leader in the Washoe tribe. Letters in support of the proposed name have been received from the Paiute tribe, the Northern Sierra Partnership Region 9 Tribal Caucus, and the United Auburn Indian Community. Forest Service has not yet completed their research process so have no official response at this time. Native American Heritage Commission member states area is in between historic Maidu and Washoe territory.

Public Comment, Darrell Cruz (proponent) – 5 minutes allowed: Was unaware of March 2022 meeting; reiterated that he is proponent, not Washoe tribe. Pointed out that blog/common usage information is often inaccurate about archeological sites. Marie grew up near this lake in the Almond cabin on the Yuba River and also worked with the Northern Sierra Partnership Region 9 Tribal Caucus, who represents 148 tribes within California and Arizona and has submitted a letter of support for the proposed name; she therefore has a local connection as well as a broad connection and influence on the larger Native American community.

h) Proposed Name: Oakland Hills

• Current Name: n/a (Berkeley Hills area)

Feature Type: Range

• County: Alameda County

• Review List: 445 (relisted from 428)

Assigned Member: Tiffany MeyerCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional outreach to local tribes and governments needed.

Notes: No response from local governments or federally recognized tribes was received; additional follow-up is needed, along with outreach to numerous other local tribes that are not federally recognized.

i) Proposed Name: Avi Kwalal

Current Name: Pilot KnobFeature Type: Ridge

• County: Imperial County

• Review List: 446 (relisted from 443)

Assigned Member: Greg LucasCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional research/official response from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is pending.

Notes: Representative for assigned member provided an update. Proposed name was submitted by the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation; 1/3 of ridge is located

on the reservation. The remaining 2/3 of land is BLM land, and BLM has not yet completed their research.

j) Proposed Name: Beyem Seyo / Delmooah Valley**

• Current Name: Squaw Valley

• Feature Type: Valley

County: Plumas CountyReview List: 416 / 446

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process.

Notes: The Forest Service meeting with Washoe Tribe (416 proponent) and Mountain Maidu Summit Consortium (446 proponent) resulted in agreement on one proposed name for each feature (items *5j–5m*), which was conveyed to the SO 3404 task force.

** 4 cases (items 5j-5m) were submitted by same proponent for same region and were considered together.

k) Proposed Name: Mo Bisipi / Seshme Creek**

• Current Name: Squaw Queen Creek

• Feature Type: Stream

County: Plumas CountyReview List: 416 / 446

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process.

Notes: See item *5j*, above.

** 4 cases (items 5j–5m) were submitted by same proponents for same region and were considered together.

I) Proposed Name: Mudoim / Delunga Peak**

Current Name: Squaw Valley Peak

• Feature Type: Summit

• County: Plumas County

• Review List: 416 / 446

Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process.

Notes: See item *5j*, above.

^{** 4} cases (items 5j–5m) were submitted by same proponents for same region and were considered together.

m) Proposed Name: Harmony Lake / Damalusung Lake**

• Current Name: Squaw Lake

• Feature Type: Lake

County: Sierra CountyReview List: 416 / 446

• Assigned Member: Raymond Hitchcock

• Case Status: To be determined by federal SO 3404 process.

Notes: See notes for item 5j, above.

^{** 4} cases (items 5j-5m) were submitted by same proponents for same region and were considered together.

n) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk**

• Current Name: Little Stonewall Peak

Feature Type: Summit

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional California State Parks research and tribal input needed.

Notes: Proposed name for this feature means "broken neck."

General notes for all four features (items 5n-5q): Features are on California State Park lands, mostly on a cultural resource preserve in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. All four features are prominent in the landscape, with both peaks being along a heavily trafficked State Park trail. Existing Stonewall name was taken from the nearby Stonewall Mine (now closed); this name commemorates a Confederate Civil War leader. The Mine name was changed from Stonewall Jackson Mine to Stonewall Mine in the late 19th Century.

No response from San Diego County Board of Supervisors or local Kumeyaay Tribe has been received thus far; proponent has hired a researcher to work with the Kumeyaay Tribe to confirm the proposed names. Proponent is also open to adding generics to peak names if Kumeyaay Tribe approves; would require amended proposal.

** 4 cases (items 5n–5q) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

o) Proposed Name: Ipuk Spiruk Creek**

Current Name: Little Stonewall Creek

Feature Type: Stream

• County: San Diego County

Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional California State Parks research needed.

Notes: See item *5n*, above.

^{** 4} cases (items 5n–5q) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

p) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii**

• Current Name: Stonewall Peak

• Feature Type: Summit

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional California State Parks research needed.

Notes: Proposed name means "sharp peak." A 2005 book, *San Diego County Place Names A to Z*, states that the feature was called Sharp Peak prior to the establishment of Stonewall Mine in 1870. Also see general notes under item *5n*, above.

** 4 cases (items 5n–5q) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

q) Proposed Name: Cush-Pii Creek**

• Current Name: Stonewall Creek

Feature Type: Stream

• County: San Diego County

• Review List: 446

Assigned Member: Daniel WalshCase Status: Deferred

Deferral basis: Additional California State Parks research needed.

Notes: See item *5n*, above.

** 4 cases (items 5n–5q) were submitted by same proponent for same region and will be considered together.

6. New Proposals on Pending Review Lists to be Introduced

a) Proposed Name: Black Miners Bar

Current Name: Negro BarFeature Type: Bar

County: Sacramento County

Review List: 448 (435)Proposal Release Date: TBA

Assigned Member: Susan Anderson

Notes: Proposed name intended to be temporary; State Parks will conduct additional research within one year and possibly submit new proposal. This is a counter-proposal to Freedom Bar, which CACGN disapproved, but that proponent has not withdrawn proposal.

b) Proposed Name: Yokuts Valley

• Current Name: Squaw Valley

• Feature Type: Populated Place (unincorporated)

County: Fresno County

Review List: 448Proposal Release Date: TBA

Assigned Member: Greg Lucas

Notes: Counter-proposal to Nuum Valley; see item *4g*, above. A recommendation from CACGN to the USBGN will need to be made no later than the November meeting for it to be considered.

c) Proposed Name: Woodson Bridge

• Current Name: Squaw Hill

Feature Type: Populated PlaceCounty: Tehama County

Review List: 448Proposal Release Date: TBA

Assigned Member: Amy Loseth

Notes: Proposed name was taken from the closest feature on the SO 3404 task force
list of the five named geographic features closest to the Sq___ feature; Woodson Bridge
State Park is also nearby. No public or tribal input was received during the 3404
outreach and comment period. US BGN is contacting Tehama County Board of
Supervisors for their input, with a deadline of November 15. Assigned member will
contact local tribes and other interested parties for their input as well. Any suggested
names would require a counter-proposal.

d) Proposed Name: Sue-meg Point

Current Name: Patrick's Point

• Feature Type: Cape

• County: Humboldt County

Review List: 448
 Proposal Release Date: TBA
 Assigned Member: TBA

Notes: The state park formerly known as Patrick's Point State Park has already been renamed to Sue-meg State Park; this proposal is to rename the local geographic feature.

e) Proposed Name: Middle Ranch Reservoir

Current Name: McGee LakeFeature Type: Reservoir

County: Los Angeles County

Review List: 448
Proposal Release Date: TBA
Assigned Member: TBA

Notes: Feature is on Santa Catalina Island; history of existing name is unclear. Proponent is with LA County Fire Dept. and states feature is widely known locally as Middle Ranch Reservoir; is asking for expedition of the case since the discrepancy between local usage and the existing official name causes confusion within the department. However, initial BGN research indicates the feature is most commonly known as Thompson Reservoir. BGN asked proposer to secure county support for proposed name. Reservoir is owned by Southern California Edison; BGN recommends reaching out to them, as well as local tribes and the Santa Catalina Conservancy.

f) Proposed Name: mee muku creek

Current Name: n/aFeature Type: Stream

• County: Marin County

• Review List: 448 (relisted from 440)

• Proposal Release Date: TBA

Assigned Member: Richard Lis

Notes: Counter-proposal for item *5c*, above. Proponent prefers all lower case, which is acceptable to US BGN. Name means green chert (type of rock).

7. Time and Place of Next Meeting:

November 18th, 2022 @ 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Proposed Spring meeting date:

March 10th, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.